(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The demand of traffic in all trains running on Indian Railways including those going towards Kathgodam varies from train to train and class to class. During the period under question, last year, there was heavy waiting list only in one train going to Kathgodam whereas in other trains the accommodation was more than adequate. At present, accommodation is generally available for booking in all classes in the trains going to Kathgodam from November onwards.

(b) to (d) To clear the extra rush during puja season this year, Railways are running 0363A/0364A Sealdah-Kathgodam-Sealdah Special and attaching extra coaches to 5308/5307 Lalkuan-Aishbagh-Lalkuan Express and 3020/3019 Howrah-Kathgodam-Howrah Bagh Express.

Besides, three trains *viz.* No. 2210/2209 Kathgodam-Kanpur Central Garib Rath (weekly), 2207/2208 Kathgodam-Jammu Tawi Garib Rath (weekly) and 5035A/5036A Delhi-Ramnagar Link Express (daily) have been introduced during the current financial year.

Construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link

142. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to preparation of plan, estimates, etc. has been completed regarding construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the construction work would likely be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details estimate for Palan-Bhiladi has been prepared at the cost of Rs. 255.46 crore.

(c) The work would be taken up once the estimate is sanctioned and land is handed over by State Government.

Facility to fleeing labourers from Kashmir

143. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorist groups in Kashmir have ordered 'Poorvi' (Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) labourers to leave Kashmir and thousands of them and their family are fleeing Kashmir to go back to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand *etc.* and crowding Jammu railway station; and

(b) if so, whether Railways' authorities have made arrangements to facilitate their transportation to their destinations despite they are not having even money to purchase tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It is a fact that thousands of labourers left Kashmir valley and are returning to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

However, the migration was not due to threat from terrorists groups in Kashmir but it was reportedly due to deteriorating law and order situation arising out of the agitation on the issue of transfer of land to Shri Amarnath Shrine Board. There was some crowding at Jammu Railway Station due to this sudden flow of labourers from Kashmir valley. Sufficient/Adequate arrangements were made by Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police and Commercial Staff of Railway at Jammu Tawi Railway Station to cope up with this situation.

(b) No, Sir. No such facility of free transportation has been provided by the Railway Administration.

Passenger facility at newly constructed platforms at New Delhi Station

144. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four platform Nos. 6/7 and 10/11 have been newly constructed at New Delhi Station and a number of mail and express trains have already been started therefrom;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no passenger facility like catering stall, bookstall as well as fruit stalls have been provided thereon uptill now; and

(c) if so, what are the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Platform no. 10/11 has been constructed and commissioned at New Delhi Station with effect from 13.09.2008. Platform no. 6/7 is still under construction and is likely to be commissioned shortly. At presen, 8 Mail/Express trains and 16 Electrical Multiple Unit trains (EMU trains) are being handled to platform no. 10/11.

(b) Two automatic vending machines dispensing kiosks have already been made operational at platform no. 10/11. Further, two milk stalls have been awarded on the newly constructed platform out of which one milk stall is under commissioning Opening of one bookstall is also under process.

(c) Does not arise.

Issuance of excess tickets

145. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the High Court of Delhi has questioned the practice of the Indian Railways with regard to issuance of tickets in excess of the carrying capacity of a train; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Hon'ble HIgh Court of Delhi while dismissing an appeal filed by Northern Railway against the